



Spire

March 2020

from Pastor Jenn

Welcome to the season of Lent. In the great tradition of the church, Christians spend these 40 days before Easter talking about Jesus' journey to the cross. We repent for mistakes and wrong-doing, give up vices, and prepare to receive God's gracious gift of new life at Easter. We stand with the first followers and make our best attempt "to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow him," just as Jesus asked (Mark 8:34).

This year we will take up the cross by entering into Christ's passion with purpose and reflection. Each Sunday we will "freeze-frame" moments in his last Holy Week and ask ourselves what we can learn for our own living. The Passion of Christ is brimming with history, risk and meaning. We will explore both the history behind the gospel accounts of his last week and the risks Jesus and his followers took in living them. In remembering the stories and taking up the cross, we can ask questions about the meaning of our faith lives.

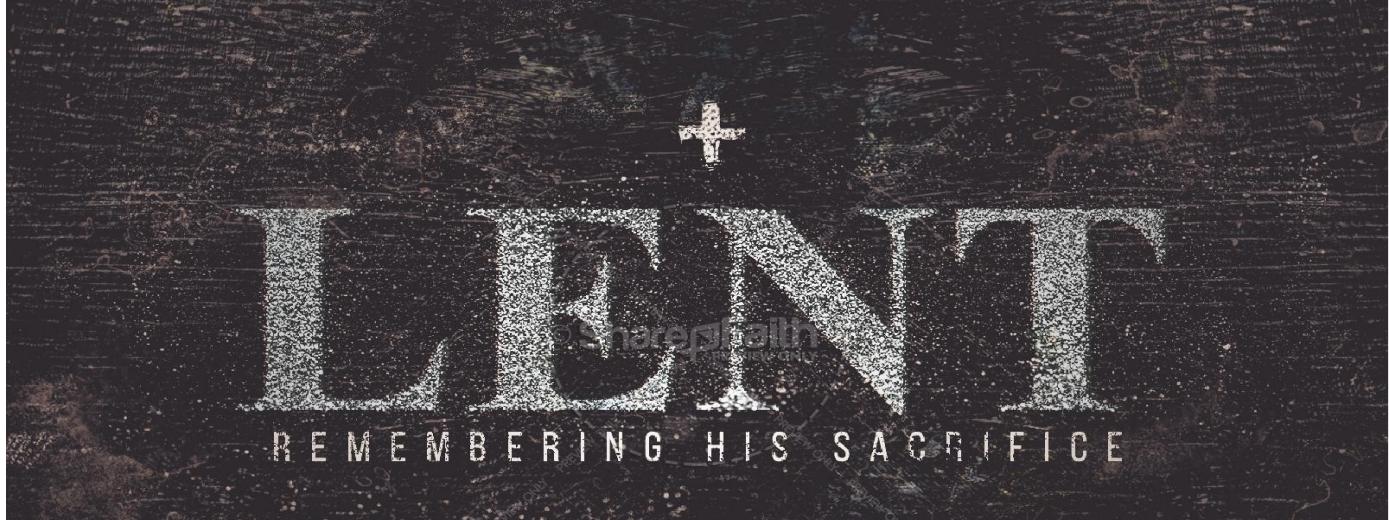
Jesus lived as someone willing to die for the love within him. What about us? What is worth living for? What is worth dying for? What are our values and have we lived up to them?

Jesus may not have faltered in carrying his cross, but we do all the time. Lent prompts us to ask where we need reconciliation and healing. What should I have done that I did not? What risk should I have taken that I was too afraid to take?

Jesus's cross was not the end of his ministry. His mission and passion live on in us. As we walk through Lent and step into the joy of new beginnings, we can also find renewed passion for living a meaningful spiritual life. What is the cross we're willing to carry (the cause we will take up)? How much have we risked for it? Do we know the answer? That's entering into Lent. That's entering the Passion.

Let the journey begin,

Pastor Jenn



Lent and Easter Worship at LGUMC

Enter the Passion of Jesus: Picture Yourself in the Story

The events of Christ's Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus' life, rarely receive enough attention in our worship and study. These events are so important to our faith and our identity as followers of Jesus, yet we rush from Palm Sunday to Easter without taking in the full drama of his last amazing week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent, we will "freeze-frame" moments in Holy Week. We will do our best to imagine ourselves in the picture, as we "enter the passion of Jesus more fully. As we take a closer look at the ancient story, we may find deeper conviction for our role in its never-ending message.

March 1 The Parade: Risking Reputation

Zechariah 9: 9-10 and Matthew 21: 1-11
Holy Communion at 9:15 and 11

March 8 The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger

Psalm 69: 8-16 and John 2: 13-21

March 15 The Teaching: Risking Challenge

Matthew 4: 1-11 and Matthew 22: 15-22

March 22 The First Dinner: Risking Reputation

Psalm 23 and Mark 14: 3-9

March 29 The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

Luke 4: 16-21 and John 13: 3-16

April 5 The Garden: Risking Temptation

Choral Cantata at 9:15
Palm Sunday Celebration at 9:15 and 11
Ephesians 6: 11-17 and Mark 14: 32-36

April 10 - Good Friday 7 PM

The Rest of the Story...

With singing, scripture and dramatic readings, we will enter the last day of Jesus' life.

April 12 - Easter Sunday

Celebrate Resurrection at 9:15 and 11 AM



Going Deeper this Lenten Season
Entering the Passion of Jesus:
Book, Bible Study and Personal Reflection Questions

Our Lenten Worship Series will help us examine the moments of Christ's last week in greater depth. Each week in worship, we will "freeze-frame" an event and reflect upon its significance for Jesus and for us. For those who are interested in going deeper, we will have a variety of additional options.

1. You can **read a book** to learn more. This series is guided by ***Entering The Passion of Jesus***, by Amy-Jill Levine. Amy-Jill Levine is Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. You can read these books on your own or with your small group. They will be available for purchase on Sundays or you can purchase a digital or hardcopy version on your own.
2. Take some time for **personal devotion, reflection and prayer**. Each Sunday the worship bulletin will offer additional scripture readings and reflection questions to deepen your understanding of the event in Jesus' life and to apply it to your own life,
3. **Group Bible Study** – We will gather for group Bible Study three times during Lent. These sessions will be led by Pastor Jenn and will allow us to reflect together on powerful themes in Jesus' last week: anger (Jesus' turning over the money changers' table), rejection (the woman who anoints Jesus' feet), and loss (the Last Supper).

Sunday, March 8 2-3:30 pm in the Fireside Room
 Sunday, March 22 2-3:30 pm in the Fireside Room
 Sunday, March 29 2-3:30 pm in the Fireside Room



Children's Ministry



VBS – June 8-12

Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School, where kids discover through life's ups and downs, that Jesus' power pulls us through. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, engage in fun snack-eating experiences, take part in one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them to trust Jesus, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with the Rock Wrap-Up that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Any questions, scholarships, volunteers? Contact Shelley at kids@lgumc.org

Volunteers are needed!

Please contact Shelley for further information.

Los Gatos United Methodist Church

June 8-12, 2020 (Mon. – Fri.)

9AM-Noon

Preschool – 5th (in fall 2020)

\$75 per child (includes a week of VBS, t-shirt, music CD, daily snacks)

\$10 Sibling Discounts

Registration start on March 1

Deadline to register May 24

(Limited to 20 Preschool Kids)



2020 Toyon Camp

THIS IS OUR PRAYER, Sunday, July 6, 4:30PM - Saturday, July 12, 11AM @ Monte Toyon

Toyon Camp serves **children entering 3rd grade through 9th grade**. Come spend a week in nature and deepen your relationship with God. At Toyon Camp you will make new friends, play games, hike, learn archery, climb a rock wall, do lots of arts and crafts, play at the beach, eat delicious food, and have the opportunity to participate in a talent show.

Toyon Camp pricing: Tier 1, \$470; Tier 2, \$420; Tier 3; \$370

For more info, www.calnevypm.org

Shari Sandoval, 916.374.1528, campregistrar@calnevumc.org

Messy Church



A new kind of non-traditional church for everyone! You (all ages) are invited to our next Messy Church, scheduled for **March 22, 11AM - 1PM @ Student Center. Bring your friends!**

Please RSVP @ kids@lgumc.org

<p>Director of Children's Ministry Shelley Ahn-Wong kids@lgumc.org 408.354.4730</p>
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Kindred Spirits

...meets Wednesday, March 11, 7:30PM, in the Art Gallery. Our discussion this month is the historical fiction novel *The Forest Lover*, by Susan Vreeland. The story is based on the life of Canadian artist, Emily Carr, who had a passionate interest in the art and culture of Native Americans, particularly the natives of Vancouver Island. Her paintings of their villages and totem poles, as well as of the rugged landscape of British Columbia, preserved a view of this beautiful untamed wilderness before industrialization changed it.



PRIME TIME

Come join us on Thursday, March 12, as we travel to the Euphrat Museum of Art at the local De Anza College to see the exhibit WOMAN PATHMAKERS. Here is an excerpt from their website:

"*Women Pathmakers* honors women whose courage and creativity helped change the world. Those featured include pioneer mathematicians, the first computer programmer, Nobel Prize winning scientists, civil rights activists, artists and musicians. Other artworks are inspired by the movement for women's voting rights, displaced immigrant populations and the impacts on women and girls, and the invisible labor of women of color."



We will meet at the parking lot behind Chase Bank at 10:30AM, carpool to the exhibit and go out for lunch afterwards.

For more information and to sign up, contact:

Ursula Young, ursulayoung@gmail.com, 408.354.7739
Adrienne Zimmerman, dancers2@aol.com, 408.356.5334
Anne-Marie Wiggers, mom@thewiggers, 408.255.9739



Movie Group



For ratings & reviews:
<http://www.jrholman.com/>

The Movie Group will return to the Fireside Room at 3PM on March 14.

Featured movies for discussion are "*Downhill*" and "*Wendy*," fresh from the Sundance Film Festival and the Jack London classic, "*Call of the Wild*."

Cinequest Film Festival returns to downtown San Jose and Redwood City from March 3-15. Attendance is encouraged. See anything and share your experience with the group.

Congratulations to Jean Mundell as our repeat winner to our Oscar Party game.



COLONET VIM FUNDRAISER BRUNCH

Sunday, March 1, 10:15AM

On March 1, the Colonet VIM Team will have a brunch fundraiser for our 2020 trip. We will be accepting donations towards the costs of the projects.

Join us on other first Sundays of each month when we offer a continental breakfast and extended fellowship time between worship services.



MAY THE ROAD RISE UP TO MEET YOU. MAY THE WIND ALWAYS BE AT YOUR BACK. MAY THE SUN SHINE WARM UPON YOUR FACE, AND RAINS FALL SOFT UPON YOUR FIELDS. AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, MAY GOD HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

HUNTER/FRYE/UMW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for students seeking financial assistance are available in the narthex. The funds are from the Ruth Dick Hunter and Florence Frye endowments and our United Methodist Women, to encourage and recognize the academic achievements and church/community service of our high-school graduates who are attending post-secondary institutions.

The deadline for turning in applications and other documents to the church office is Thursday, May 21, at 3 p.m. Students may receive scholarships for up to four years, but must apply each time.

If you would like an application emailed, call the office: 408/354-4730. If you have questions, call Jean Mundell: 408/358-2069.





"Living God's Love in the World" - The children of Grace Preschool, located on the LGUMC Campus, continue to learn and grow in love through this year's "Kindness Project," implemented by Grace Director, Kristy Currie, and her staff. Beginning with "kindness to others," the theme evolved to include "kindness to

the earth," and in February, "kindness to animals" took shape. Students and their families collected towels and blankets for shelter animals, and older students tied material together to make cat toys. In Preparation for Valentines Day, students made Valentine cards that they stamped, sealed and deposited in the Main Street Mailbox – a special surprise for Mom and Dad! Valentines Day was filled with love and excitement as children made fun, heart, cookie-cutter sandwiches for a Valentine snack, while anxiously waiting to distribute Valentine Cards into the decorated bags of their classmates!

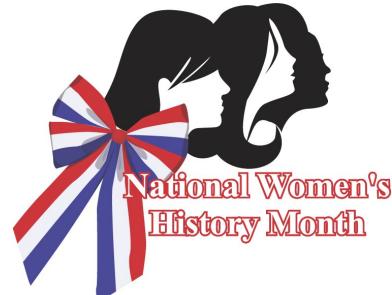
March is looking like a fun month for the children, as well! Preparations are being made to begin planting spring veggies in the garden. Three to four year olds and students in Pre-Kindergarten classes are looking forward to their field trip to the Los Gatos Library for story time and a tour. The older children will be able to get their own library cards, too!

Throughout this school year an exciting new educational program has been added as "Enrichment" to the regular curriculum. These age-appropriate, after school options, allow students to explore new and exciting topics in three to six week units. Beginning with "Coding/Robotics," the "Group Games" segment just concluded with rave reviews. Upcoming enrichment offerings may include "Mindfulness" (listening to our bodies and understanding our emotions) and possibly, "Multi-Cultural Cooking." And, looking to summer...Registration for Summer Camp begins March 30.



IN & AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Celebration!
**100th ANNIVERSARY of
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**
All are invited to a celebration on
March 5, 6-7:30PM,
in the Los Gatos Council Chambers.
On display in the chambers will be ten panels
showing events in the
100 years of the League and the
Women Voting rights.



GROUP BIBLE STUDY
with Pastor Jennifer Murdock
LGUMC
Sunday(s)
March 8, 22 & 29
2-3:30PM
Fireside Room
(see page 3 for details)

LOS GATOS CONCERT SERIES
Alina Kiryayeva
classical piano
Sunday March 29, 2:30PM
Los Gatos United Methodist Church
Tickets: \$30 adult/\$25 senior/\$5 student
www.lgcca.org



ERIC WARD
**ALFSV Faith Leader Dialogue:
Faith Communities,
Race Equality & Democracy**
Tuesday, March 31
10AM-1:30PM
Congregation Shir Hadash, Los Gatos
RSVP alfsv.org/mar31



Church Council Members

- Chair of the Church Board
Jennifer Stagnaro, jennifer@stagnaro.com
- Chair of the Board of Trustees
Larry Kroh, lkroh1@aol.com
- Chair of Staff Parish Relations
Penny Herman, nt.advisor@comcast.net
- Chair of Finance Committee
Doug Evans, eldoug1@msn.com
- Chair of Health Ministries
Jo Ann Disbrow, disbrowjo@yahoo.com
- Chair of Grace Preschool Board
Rita Matthews, fourwinn156@hotmail.com
Ann Reynolds, reynolds_reese@yahoo.com
- Chair of LOSNSC Board
Trudy Burling, trudyburling@hotmail.com
- Team Rep. of Social Justice Team
Jean Mundell, jmundell@earthlink.net
- Lay Member of Annual Conference
Judy Petrokas, quiltqueen@ix.netcom.com
Gail Hybarger, ca-unicorn@pacbell.net
- Chair of Endowment
Matthew Geisick, mattgeisick@gmail.com
- Chair Outreach Team
Ursula Young, ursulayoung@gmail.com
- Chair Congregational Care Ministry
Lois & Elwin Stocking,
l.e.stocking@comcast.net
- Chair United Methodist Women
Christina Capps, kl_capps@yahoo.com
Ruth Oveland, roveland@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9AM-3PM
Friday - Closed

Our Ministry & Office Staff

- Pastor Jennifer Murdock
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- Joyce Rhodes, Organist
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- Mary Lou Abrahamson, Communications
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- Richard Garcia, Facilities Engineer
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The Spire

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Thank You.

Our Mission

Growing as followers of Jesus Christ
who live God's love in the world.



Find out more about our Ministries!
Go to www.LGUMC.org



**"Serving Christ in this Community
since 1866"**

Pastor

Pastor Jennifer Murdock

Sunday Worship

9:15AM Traditional Worship Service
11AM Open House Contemporary Worship Service

Children's Ministry

9:15AM & 11:15AM
(Preschool—Grade 5)

Childcare

9:15AM and 11:15AM
Newborn—3 years

Youth Groups

Sr. & Jr. High

All Welcome!

We are a Reconciling Congregation

No one will be excluded from participating in the body of the church because of age, race, ethnicity, culture, religious origins, sexual orientation or challenging conditions.